**Animal Behavior Project Options**

(400 points are needed for 0.5 credit)

*THIS IS NOT A STAND ALONE CREDIT; THIS IS* ***IN ADDITION*** *TO COMPLETING ALL CLASS WORK AT AN A or B LEVEL*

*20 points is equivalent to about 1 hour of work*

*SELECT YOUR POINTS AND PROJECTS FROM THE OPTIONS PROVIDED OR CREATE A PROJECT PROPOSAL AND PRESENT IT TO THE TEACHER FOR APPROVAL BEFORE YOU BEGIN*

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| *POINTS* | *TASK* | *Date Presented* | *Grade Earned* |
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**50 points – Ethologist Project…. A mini-biography and poster** (max of 2)

Answer who, what, when, where, why AND the following:

* Birth / death dates
* What motivated the person to dedicate his/her life to studying animal behavior?
* what his/her training was?
* who was influential in his/her life?
* how she/he came to do the work she/he did?
* what difficulties she/he encountered?
* what she/he accomplished?
* how she/he did it? (what tools were used or developed?
* What was the impact of his/her work?
* what she/he are doing now (if they are still living)?
* Think of other things you would like to know about the person and try to find answers.

Write a short biography of this person (300 – 500 words) and present it orally along with a visual poster to your class in a way that will help the class understand how important one individual can be to ethology.

**75 points – Pet Care Project** (max of 2)

you need sources for all of your information. You may choose how to share your findings (hand out, poster, video, webpage, etc)

* + Scientific and common name
  + Image of the critter at 2 life stages
  + Facts
    - Average adult size
    - Average life span
    - Diet (herbivore, insectivore, carnivore, omnivore, detritivore)
      * What to feed it
      * How often to feed it
    - Housing
      * Size
      * Habitat
      * Temperature
      * Lighting
      * Special requirements
      * Whether or not it can be placed with other pets (types / examples)
      * How often to clean or change
    - Hygiene / Grooming
    - Normal / healthy Behavior
    - Signs of a healthy animal (specific to your pet)
    - Red Flags
      * Health issues
      * Symptoms
      * Causes
      * Suggested actions
    - Three resources the new pet owner could use to get more info on their pet
    - A shopping list for setting up a habitat and caring for the pet for the first 2 weeks

**20 points per behavior– create a glog, webpage, educanvas or wiki** for a type of Innate behavior or learned behavior (max of 10)

* Behavior list
  + **Innate:** Instinct, cyclic behavior, migration, hibernation, circadian rhythm, reflex, aggression, submission, territorial, courtship, and communication.
  + **Learned:** Insight, imprinting, trial & error, habituation, operant, conditioning, classical
* Include
  + Definition of the behavior
  + Statement about the survival value of the behavior (why is it important to the fitness of the species)
  + 5 Examples of the behavior
    - video clips (embedded or linked) which show the behavior
    - Writing (may be a passage from a fictional book, non-fiction text, newspaper or magazine) which demonstrates the behavior
    - Pictures which show the behavior
  + 3-5 sentence summary for each example of the behavior

**60 points – video analysis** (max of 2)

* + Title of movie (may be fiction or non-fiction) (ex: fly away home, gorillas in the mist, among the wild chimpanzees, etc - - others with teacher PREapproval)
  + Timestamp of scene
  + Description of the scene
  + Type of behavior shown (Innate; Instinct, cyclic behavior, migration, hibernation, circadian rhythm, reflex, aggression, submission, territorial, courtship, and communication. Learned; Insight, imprinting, trial & error, habituation, operant, conditioning, classical).
  + Explanation of how you know it is this behavior

**120 points – report on the MN zoo or Como Zoo** (max of 1)

* Write a 500 word (or more) essay about the zoo you choose. Include it’s history, purpose, current practices and the who, what, when, where, why and how that are essential to any good research project. CITE YOUR SOURCES
* Include a photo appendix highlighting 10 of the zoos animals / exhibits
* Create a visit agenda and map to highlight one of the following types of tours
  + Predator/prey = select 2 carnivores and 2 herbivores to guide your visitors past; include a list of what to look for in their different habitats
  + Play = select 4 animal exhibits to guide your visitors past; include a list of what the visitor should look for in an animal at play
  + Circadian rhythms = 4 animal exhibits to visit that highlight the different types of rhythms animals respond to (nocturnal vs day active animals)
  + Primate behaviors
  + Other upon teacher PREapproval

**10 points per book - Conduct a series of book reviews** on children’s books about Animal Behavior (max of 5)

* Include the
  + Title
  + Author
  + Year of publication
  + Your summary of the reading
  + List of the behaviors presented and a specific location in the story (page number) for each
  + Star rating (1 – hated it, 2 – didn’t really like it, 3 – liked it, 4 – really liked it, 5 – loved it)

**40 points – Create a children’s book or puppet show** on an animal behavior (max 1)

* Original, creative work and idea
* Must have a characters, a sequence of events that make sense, an introduction, conflict, climax and resolution
* Must include explicit examples or references to innate or learned behaviors.
* Proper Grammar, usage, mechanics and spelling required

**75 points – Create an animal portfolio** (max 2)

* Select an animal and create an online binder or a physical 3-ring binder of information on the animal to share with others. Include:
  + Pictures of the organism at different life stages
  + Common and scientific name
  + Diagram of organism’s life cycle
  + Collage of organism’s food web
  + Map showing current ranges it inhabits
  + List of 20 normal / healthy behaviors for this organism
  + Select 5 behaviors off of the list. For each of the behaviors write a separate paragraph explaining how the behavior has helped the organism to survive or adapt over time.
  + Description of the organisms viability (is it endangered, is it experiencing a population boom, etc) and an explanation for why
  + 4 news articles (from 2010 to present) regarding this organism
  + A 300 – 500 word essay explaining why the world is a better place with this organism living in it

**Up to 400 points – Book Review**

* Read a book that includes an exploration in animal behavior. For example:
  + When elephants weep
  + King solomn’s ring
  + Where the Red Fern Grows
  + The Scorpio Races
  + A Version of the Truth
  + The Blood Red Road (focus on Nero, the wolf, horse, etc)
  + Shiver
  + Under the Never Sky
  + Most books by James Herriot
  + Most books by Jane Goodall
  + Others books may be used with teacher preapproval
* Documentation of the time spent reading the book (date, time, page# - page#)
* Write a chapter summary for each chapter (just a paragraph)
* Create a learning document about the book. Include
  + Title (underlined)/Author
  + Publication Information: Publisher, year, number of pages
  + Genre
  + Setting
  + Descriptions of the major characters
  + Concise plot summary
  + Map of the sequence of events
  + Specific examples from the book (page number and passage) about animal behaviors
  + Answers to the following questions:
    - Is the writing effective, powerful, difficult, beautiful?
    - What are the strengths and weaknesses of the book?
    - What are the author's qualifications to write about the subject?
    - Do you agree with the author's point of view?
    - What is your overall response to the book? Did you find it interesting, moving, dull?
    - Would you recommend it to others? Why or why not?
  + Conclusion - a paragraph summary that pulls all your thoughts on the book together including what impressions the book left you with and what you want other readers to know about the book.